

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Cardiovascular disease is the nation's leading cause of death with direct and indirect costs estimated to be \$352 billion in 2003; and,

Whereas, One in five Americans have some form of cardiovascular disease and death from sudden cardiac arrest is a major health concern that has received much less attention than heart attack; and,

Whereas, Nationwide, approximately 250,000 Americans die from sudden cardiac arrest each year; and,

Whereas, Up to 80 percent of these deaths occur in the home; and,

Whereas, The research is clear that there are tools available to increase survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest; and,

Whereas, Efforts of the American Heart Association encourage citizens to help save lives by learning the signs of sudden cardiac arrest, calling 9-1-1 if they occur, being trained in CPR, and encouraging comprehensive automated external defibrillator (AED) programs in their communities; and,

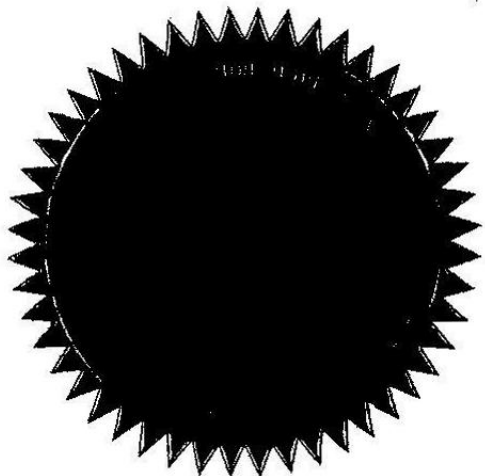
Whereas, The American Heart Association is celebrating February 2003 as American Heart Month with the theme "Get Hands On and Help Save a Life" and promoting education and awareness by encouraging citizens to learn CPR with just a few hours of training:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 2003, as

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

in South Dakota, and I urge our citizens to recognize the critical importance of tools and skills that will increase survival rates from cardiac arrest. By incorporating these tools into aggressive programs, we can save thousands of lives each year.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this First Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.



M. Michael Rounds
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State